

NEWS

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PERTUSSIS CASES SOAR NEW BOOSTER VACCINE MAY CURB CASES

The Central District Health Department (CDHD) has experienced a nearly three-fold increase in the number of reported pertussis (whooping cough) cases in 2005 (see graph on page 3.) The alarming rise in the number of cases of the highly contagious disease is in part linked to waning immunity among adolescents and adults, but new vaccines could help reduce the number of new infections.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is now recommending that children ages 11 – 18 and adults ages 19 – 64 receive newly licensed Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertussis (Tdap) vaccination boosters. The new vaccines help protect adolescents and adults from pertussis, while also reducing the risk of the disease being transmitted to infants, who are the most vulnerable to serious and sometimes fatal effects of pertussis.

“The new adolescent and adult boosters offer effective tools in reducing the number of new infections,” Said Cindy Trail CDHD Deputy Director and Epidemiology Program Manager. “We strongly encourage physicians to recommend these new boosters to their teenage and adult patients.”

The new adult Tdap vaccine booster, ADACEL (licensed June 10, 2005) is manufactured by Sanofi Pasteur and approved for adolescents and adults ages 11 to 64. BOOSTRIX, manufactured by GlaxoSmithKline (licensed May 3, 2005), is approved for children and adolescents 11 – 18 years of age.

PERTUSSIS – ADD ONE

BOOSTRIX is available at CDHD and the state's other health districts as part of the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program. To be eligible for BOOSTRIX through the health districts, children must be between 10 and 18 years of age and meet at least one of three criteria:

1. They must have no health insurance
2. Be enrolled in Medicaid
3. Or be an Alaskan native or American Indian

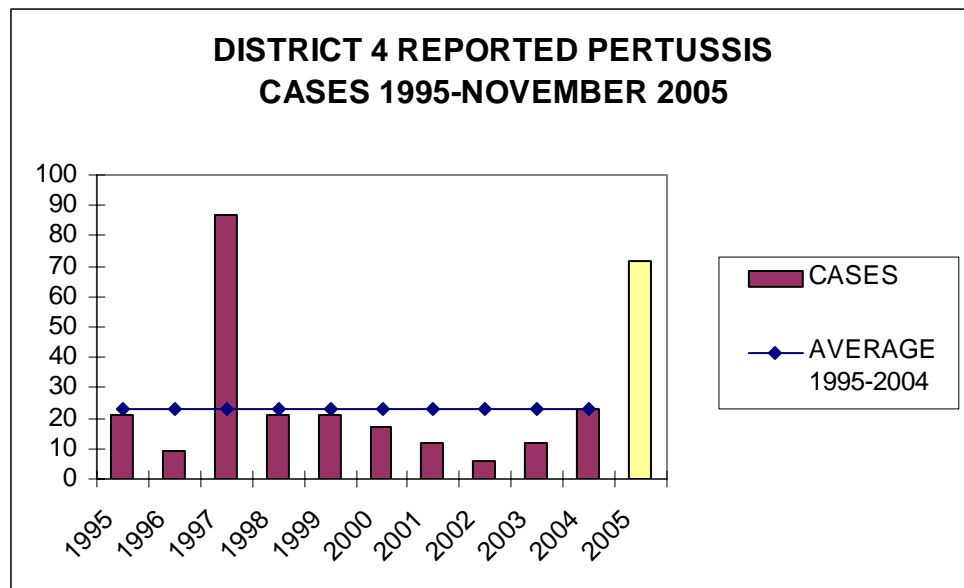
There is no charge for the BOOSTRIX vaccine for eligible children, though the district may ask for an administration fee, which is calculated on a sliding scale. BOOSTRIX will not be available to the general public.

ADACEL, which is approved for adolescents and adults ages 11 to 64, will be available for all clients at CDHD offices in Boise, Mountain Home and McCall. The cost is \$59. Individuals must call ahead to make an appointment and to assure that the booster vaccines are available. In Boise call 327-7450, McCall 630-8002 or Mountain Home 587-4407.

For more information on immunizations or other health-related topics please visit the CDHD website: www.cdhd.idaho.gov.

- MORE -

PERTUSSIS – ADD TWO



- 72 cases through 11/28/05
- 10 year average 1995-2004 = 22.9 cases
- Current 72 cases = 2.75x the previous 10 year average
- 55 cases Ada County; 17 Elmore County
- Youngest case—2 months & oldest case—78 years

| ADA COUNTY PERTUSSIS CASES 2005 THROUGH NOVEMBER | | |
|--|-----------|------------|
| AGE | CASES | Percentage |
| Birth-12 Months | 4 | 7 |
| 1-4 Years | 6 | 11 |
| 5-12 Years | 13 | 24 |
| 13-18 Years | 8 | 15 |
| >19 Years | 24 | 44 |
| Total | 55 | |

